

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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Wednesday, September 4, 1996/Bhadra 13,
1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, the Question Hour should be suspended immediately.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions) yesterday America fired missiles on Iraq. We should condemn this. This matter should be discussed here...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

11.02 hrs.

[English]

At this stage Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till 1200 noon.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

IBP Co. Ltd.

*461. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the IBP Co. Ltd. has been incurring losses for the last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of profit/loss of IBP Co. Ltd. for each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The profit after tax of IBP Co. Ltd. during the last three years, namely 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 was Rs. 18.89 Crores, Rs. 23.52 Crores and Rs. 24.42 Crores respectively.

Petrochemicals Units

*462. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ONGC and BPCL have any plan to tie-up for setting up petrochemicals units using natural gas liquid (NGL);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the location identified for this purpose; and

(c) the total expenditure involved for this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c). Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited are conducting discussions for arriving at a Memorandum of Understanding for setting up of a Joint Venture Company to implement a grass-root paraxylene project at Hazira in Gujarat. The proposal is at a very preliminary stage at present.

Power Policy

*463. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have cleared the proposal to set up an expert panel to review the Private Sector Power Development Policy and its incentive package;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (d). The Government have set up an inter-ministerial committee to study alternative tariff structures and suggest changes that may be necessary, with the ultimate objective of enabling availability of least cost power to the State Electricity Boards. The Committee is in the final stages of its deliberations.

[Translation]

People below Poverty Line

*464. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any comprehensive scheme for the development of the

States where 40 percent population is living below the poverty line;

(b) whether Bihar is also covered under the scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the schemes proposed to be started in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c). The Development of a State is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government via various Centrally Sponsored Schemes. for alleviation of rural poverty, the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) are the major Centrally Schemes. The Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) is the major urban poverty alleviation programme. There are area development programmes like the Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) and Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP) specifically for the development of drought-prone areas, desert areas, hill areas and tribal areas. In addition the Government proposes to strengthen the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) which emphasises necessary allocation to important social development components which affect the quality of life of the people. Seven basic Minimum Services have been identified for coverage in a time-bound manner. For this, an additional Rs. 2216 crore has been provided in the Budget as Special Central Plan assistance to States for these Basic Minimum Services. This outlay will be in addition to the earmarked outlays in the plans of the State Governments for these programmes.

[English]

Urban Basic Services for the Poor

*465. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched an Urban Basic Services for the poor to improve the quality of life of the Urban Poor;

(b) whether it has been launched with the help of the State Government and UNICEF;

(c) if so, the main features thereof; and

(d) the number of areas proposed to be covered during the period 1996-97, particularly in the State of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The expenditure on this Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP) is being shared on a 60:40 basis between the Central and the State Governments. UNICEF assistance is available under the Programme for the selected five key result areas which are vital to sustain the implementation of the Programme, namely, Capacity Building to Management, Training Capacity Development, Advocacy and Communication, Assistance to NGOs and Inter-Sectional Collaboration.

(c) The specific features of the Programmes are (i) Effective achievement of social sector goals; (ii) Community Organisation, mobilisation and empowerment; and (iii) Convergence through sustainable support systems.

(d) The Urban Basic Services for the Poor, a continuing Scheme, covers 301 towns in the country, including 35 towns in Maharashtra.

[Translation]

Urban Water Supply Scheme

*466. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to continue the accelerated urban water supply scheme introduced in 1993-94;

(b) if so, the number of States and number of cities where the said scheme is to be introduced on the priority basis; and

(c) the details of the States and cities where the said scheme was introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This programme, applicable to towns having population less than 20,000 as per 1991 Census, is for the entire country. In all, 2151 towns are eligible for Central assistance under the programme. The information about number of eligible towns in each State is provided in Statement-I.

(c) So far, 209 schemes have been approved by the Central Government at an estimated cost of Rs. 164.65 crores. Details about the number of towns sanctioned under the programme in each State alongwith estimated cost is shown in Statement-II.